

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 CCO-00 CIAE-00

OTPE-00 FCC-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 RSC-01 COME-00

ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-10

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R 051839Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

UNCLAS STATE 176171

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETEL, PFOR, ITU, XA

SUBJECT: PANAFTEL

REF: ADDIS ABABA 9620

1. INFO SUPPLIED BY TEDROS VERY MUCH AT VARIANCE WITH
REPORT OF USG PARTICIPANTS AT PANAFTEL PROSPECTIVE DONORS
MEETING HELD ITU HEADQUARTERS GENEVA MAY 21-22.

2. PURPOSE OF THAT MEETING WAS TO GAUGE ATTITUDE OF
POTENTIAL MAJOR DONORS TO CONTRIBUTING TO FUND. COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED INCLUDED CANADA, FRANCE, FRG, ITALY, JAPAN,
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NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN, UK AND US. INVITEES WHO DID NOT APPEAR

INCLUDED CHINA, SWITZERLAND AND USSR.

3. UPON QUESTIONING OF ADB AND OTHER AFRICAN OFFICIALS
IT BECAME CLEAR THAT:

(A) ONLY PRELIMINARY TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL STUDIES WERE
AVAILABLE AT TIME AND FINAL STUDIES NOT EXPECTED PRIOR END
OF AUGUST 1973;

(B) TOTAL COST ESTIMATES THEREFORE VAGUE AND AT TIME OF
MEETING NOT WELL SUBSTANTIATED;

(C) OBJECTIVE OF AFRICANS EVIDENTLY TO SET UP FUND TO
FINANCE NETWORK TO BE ADMINISTERED BY ADB WHICH WOULD

DO SO, IN EFFECT, IN ANY MANNER IT SAW FIT WITHOUT FURTHER
REFERENCE TO DONORS.

4. REACTION OF MOST PARTICIPANTS WAS NEGATIVE TO THIS
APPROACH. BRITISH AND FRENCH REPS WERE PARTICULARLY
EMPHATIC IN STATING THEIR GOVTS UNABLE PARTICIPATE IN ANY
MULTILATERAL FUND OF THIS NATURE AND SIGNIFIED INTENTION
CONTINUE BILATERAL APPROACHES TO FUNDING OF TELECOM
PROJECTS. SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO
COORDINATE THEIR INDIVIDUAL BILATERAL TELECOM PROJECTS
WITH PROPOSED NETWORK.

5. SUBSEQUENT ADB/ITU PROPOSAL FOR A FUNDING COORDINATION
MECHANISM (COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF ADB, ITU, ECA, WORLD BANK
AND DONOR COUNTRIES), ALSO FAILED OF AGREEMENT BECAUSE MOST
PARTICIPANTS INDICATED THEY LACKED AUTHORITY TO APPROVE
ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH COMMITTEE. THEREUPON PRESIDENT OF ADB
LABIDI STATED THAT INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING WOULD BE
CONVENED IN NOVEMBER 1973 AFTER PARTICIPANTS HAVE HAD
OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE FINAL DETAILED CONSULTANTS REPORTS
EXPECTED END OF AUGUST. DATE AND PLACE OF MEETING WERE LEFT
OPEN, ALTHOUGH AT ONE POINT LABIDI SUGGESTED ABIDJAN, ADB
HEADQUARTERS, AS SITE.

6. SINCE CONCLUSION OF GENEVA MEETING, ONLY MATERIAL
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RECEIVED BY USG ON THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN DRAFT MINUTES OF
MEETING. WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY NOTICE OF SEPTEMBER 9
MEETING MENTIONED BY TEDROS, NOR HAVE DETAILED REPORTS
PROMISED AT MAY MEETING ARRIVED. FURTHERMORE, SINCE ITU
PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE OPENS IN TORREMOLINOS, SPAIN,
SEPTEMBER 14, WE STRONGLY DOUBT THAT TIME AND PLACE OF MEET-
ING MENTIONED BY TEDROS COULD BE ACCURATE. RUSH

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